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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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For the *National Era*.

HERMAN;

on.

YOUNG KNIGHTHOOD.

By E. FOXTON,

Author of "Primer."

CHAPTER XV.—Continued.

"If you are, I am almost her wrong with you; I can imagine how like unfeling mockery such doctrines as you complain of must sound to an ardent, thoughtful, feeling, aspiring, creature, who is likely, or as she thinks certain, never to have a husband or household of her own. Domestic life is one preparation, and as I should imagine, a most important and indispensable preparation, for all womans life, but for such a woman by no means the only important and indispensable preparation. While she discharged her domestic duties, if she has any—it is her duty to provide herself, if she has with some resources, so that she may fall back, if her circumstances, to locate her in relations of interdependence with her kind, with which she may support herself independently and comfortably if she is poor, with which she may occupy her mind and heart wholesomely, at any rate. If all single women brought themselves betimes of doing this, I believe that we might see fewer she-maenines in the Insane Asylums, fewer teapots, ill-assorted marriages, *coteries*, and gossip, out of them. But the choices of such resources, sanctioned at present by custom and fashion, is fearfully small. I grant the Bishop, for that epitome of variety, wounskaid. I do not wonder that you found yourself a loss. I scarcely know how a woman of character and ability can do her a greater service than by striking out quickly and modestly some new line of business suited to them, and taking the lead in it. Florence Nightingale has done this; and only see what a favor she has excited. But I suppose there are many able women as little able to be mothers, as to be wives or sisters. Because her experiment succeeded, I am led to the skies. Other experiments will have to be tried, before the great field of womanhood can be explored and defined. Some such experiments must fail; but, provided they are tried conscientiously and judiciously, their trials will deserve pity and sympathy, rather than the ridicule and condemnation which they will receive."

"Herman, I wish I knew what advice you, a Protestant, could have given to me, if I had come to you my aid instead of the Bishop?"

"Can't you guess? It would not have been rendered more difficult."

"Oh, fit! Seriously now; what advice would you have given to any other spoiled, idle, discontented *cunyee* in my place?"

"Do not! You would tell me my presumption is too harsh and too fast. Remember my trade teaches me to be unspiring in recommending and urging unpleasant remedies."

"I am not afraid. I think you could be unspiring. I know you could not be unwise."

"At least, I should not have been so unfeeling as to suggest some of your unfeeling, by telling you that you were not fit to be a mother. I should not have done so, in the first instance, because it would have been a falsehood; in the second place, because it would have been a lie."

"You had come to me, and I had not with what right?"

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